

NAME WELL NO. "CSO" 4 ("PICO" #4)

COUNTY LOS ANGELES

APPROVAL COMMITTEE:-

Aubrey Drury

J. R. Knowland

Peter T. Conmy

Henrietta Toothaker

Approved at the January 22, 1954 meeting

STATE PARK COMMISSION

*Richard T. ...* 2/2/54  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

REGISTERED LANDMARK NUMBER 516

DATE FEBRUARY 3, 1954


14  
Sed. " Pico +  
STATEMENT COVERING PROCEDURE FOR REGISTRATION OF  
HISTORICAL POINTS OF INTEREST IN CALIFORNIA

Application for registration of Historical Landmarks is to be made on the attached form. It is important that complete information be given in order to assist the Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee in making its decision regarding qualification of the point of interest for actual registration. It is of equal importance that two or more photographs be made a part of the application, together with a statement, in writing, from the owner of the point of interest requesting or authorizing the State Park Commission on the approval of the Director of Natural Resources to register and number the historical location. Requests or applications for registration are to be sent to the Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee, P. O. Box 2390, Sacramento 11, California.

AUBREY NEASHAM  
Historian

THIS PAGE RESERVED FOR COMMENTS BY THE APPROVAL COMMITTEE

WELL NO. "CSO" 4 ("PICO" #4)

Approved: 

Disapproved:

Comments:

WELL NO. "CSO" 4 ("PICO" #4)

Approved:

*J. W. Kinnaman*

Disapproved:

Comments:

*Tablet already furnished  
J. W. K.*

Approved:

Peter T. Conroy

Disapproved:

Comments:

Petroleum was discovered here in  
1865 (according to <sup>Phil Townsend Hanna</sup> ~~Hanna~~, California through  
Four Centuries p. 158-59)

The truly historical nature of this  
spot; the interest in it of early Californians  
such as Andres Pico and Col. E. D. Baker,  
outweighs by far the commercial  
use.

Peter T. Conroy  
10-4-53

WELL NO. "CSO" 4 ("PICO" #4)

Approved:

*Henrietta Tothaker*

Disapproved:

Comments:

WELL NO. "GEO" 4 ("PICO" #4)

Approved:

Disapproved:

Paul G. Wheat

Comments:

Unless or until general policy is developed.



APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF HISTORICAL POINT OF INTEREST

Name of Historical Point..... Well No. "CSO" 4 ("Pico" #4)

..... Pico Canyon (near Newhall, California)

Location.....

Name of Owner..... Standard Oil Company of California

Street..... 225 Bush Street

City..... San Francisco 20, California

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

FIRST COMMERCIAL OIL WELL

IN

CALIFORNIA

On this site stands CSO-4 (Pico #4), California's first commercially productive well. It was spudded in early 1876, under the direction of Demetrius G. Scofield, later to become first President of Standard Oil Company of California, and was completed at a depth of 300 feet on September 26, 1876, for an initial flow of 30 barrels of oil a day.

Later, in the same year, the well was deepened to 600 feet, using what was perhaps the first steam rig employed in oil well drilling in California. Upon this second completion, it produced at a rate of 150 barrels a day, and is still producing after seventy-seven years.

The success of this well prompted formation of the Pacific Coast Oil Company, a predecessor of Standard Oil Company of California, and led to the construction of the State's first refinery nearby. It was not only the discovery well of the Newhall Field, but was, indeed a powerful stimulus to the subsequent development of the California petroleum industry.

---

Dedicated June 6, 1953

STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA

PETROLEUM PRODUCTION PIONEERS, INC.

REFERENCES TO BOOKS, RECORDS, AND OTHER AUTHORITIES SUSTAINING THESE FACTS

Practically all histories of early oil development in California refer to this well.

A recent mention is made in an American Petroleum Institute booklet entitled "California's Oil" published in April, 1948.

ARE PICTURES ATTACHED?..... Yes (two).....

IS STATEMENT OF OWNER ATTACHED?..... See statement herein.....

Signed..... Paul Andrews.....

City..... Los Angeles, California.....

Date..... August 27, 1953.....

(This form when filled out completely is to be sent to the Official Approval Committee, care of the ~~California State Chamber of Commerce, 350 Bush Street, San Francisco 4, California.~~)

California State Park Commission  
~~1211 16th Street~~ P. O. Box 2390  
Sacramento ~~14,~~ California

STATEMENT OF PROPERTY OWNER TO THE PARK COMMISSIONER

AUTHORIZING THE NUMBERING AND REGISTRATION OF HISTORICAL POINT OF INTEREST

Mr. J. E. Toussaint, Vice-President and Manager of  
Producing Department of Standard Oil Company of California,  
which owns the property in fee, made the principal address  
at the dedication ceremony and authorized the project.  
If further authorization is necessary for your purpose I  
will be pleased to request Mr. Toussaint's writing you  
direct.

**PHOTOGRAPHS:**



## FIRST COMMERCIAL OIL WELL IN CALIFORNIA

ON THIS SITE STANDS CSO-4 (PICO-4) CALIFORNIA'S FIRST COMMERCIALLY PRODUCTIVE WELL. IT WAS SPUDDED IN EARLY 1876, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF DEMETRIUS C. SCOFIELD, LATER TO BECOME FIRST PRESIDENT OF STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA, AND WAS COMPLETED AT A DEPTH OF 300 FEET ON SEPTEMBER 26, 1876, FOR AN INITIAL FLOW OF 30 BARRELS OF OIL A DAY.

LATER IN THE SAME YEAR, THE WELL WAS DEEPE-  
NED TO 600 FEET, USING WHAT WAS PERHAPS THE  
FIRST STEAM RIG EMPLOYED IN OIL WELL DRILLING  
IN CALIFORNIA. UPON THIS SECOND COMPLETION, IT  
PRODUCED AT A RATE OF 150 BARRELS A DAY AND IS  
STILL PRODUCING AFTER SEVENTY-SEVEN YEARS.

THE SUCCESS OF THIS WELL PROMPTED FORMATION  
OF THE PACIFIC COAST OIL COMPANY, A PREDECESSOR  
OF STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA,  
AND LED TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE STATES  
FIRST REFINERY NEARBY. IT WAS NOT ONLY  
THE DISCOVERY WELL OF THE NEWHALL FIELD,  
BUT WAS INDEED A POWERFUL STIMULUS TO  
THE SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENT OF THE  
CALIFORNIA PETROLEUM INDUSTRY.

DEDICATED JUNE 6, 1951  
STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA  
PETROLEUM PRODUCTION PIONEERS, INC.



## FIRST COMMERCIAL OIL WELL IN CALIFORNIA

ON THIS SITE STANDS CSO-4 (PICO-4) CALIFORNIA'S FIRST COMMERCIALLY PRODUCTIVE WELL. IT WAS SPOOLED IN EARLY 1876 UNDER THE DIRECTION OF DEMETRIUS G. SCOFIELD, LATER TO BECOME FIRST PRESIDENT OF STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA. AND WAS COMPLETED AT A DEPTH OF 300 FEET ON SEPTEMBER 26, 1876 FOR AN INITIAL FLOW OF 30 BARRELS OF OIL A DAY. LATER, IN THE SAME YEAR, THE WELL WAS DEEPENED TO 600 FEET USING WHAT WAS PERHAPS THE FIRST STEAM RIG EMPLOYED IN OIL WELL DRILLING IN CALIFORNIA. UPON THIS SECOND COMPLETION, IT PRODUCED AT A RATE OF 150 BARRELS A DAY AND IS STILL PRODUCING AFTER SEVENTY-SEVEN YEARS. THE SUCCESS OF THIS WELL PROMPTED FORMATION OF THE PACIFIC COAST OIL COMPANY, A PREDECESSOR OF STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA, AND LED TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE STATE'S FIRST REFINERY NEARBY. IT WAS NOT ONLY THE DISCOVERY WELL OF THE NEWHALL FIELD, BUT WAS, INDEED, A POWERFUL STIMULUS TO THE SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENT OF THE CALIFORNIA PETROLEUM INDUSTRY.

DEDICATED JUNE 6, 1953  
STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA  
PETROLEUM PRODUCTION PIONEERS, INC.